Carol Sawyer was elected to the Board of Education in 2017. She holds master's degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and George Washington University, and earned her bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She has served as director of exhibits and planning at the Museum of Life and Science and as a consultant for nonprofit organizations. Sawyer previously served on the Board of Education's Equity Committee and is a co-founder of the advocacy organizations OneMECK and Mecklenburg ACTS. She and her husband, Tom Hanchett, live in east Charlotte and value the area's rich cultural and ethnic mix of longtime residents and newcomers.